

47

Date: February 2, 2009

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Financial Assistance Programs Division
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources
1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 5237S
Washington, DC 20250-2890

Re: Comments on proposed NRCS regulation changes
Docket # NRCS-IFR-08005

To Whom It May Concern:

After thoroughly reviewing the proposed changes to the regulations, we wish to bring the following concerns to your attention;

1) Revise Section 1466.8, c, 2. iii; Revise paragraph iii: "...identified resource concern that is on private land; or" to state instead "...identified resource concern; or"

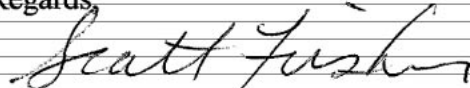
This is necessary, because the present wording in this proposed regulation will eliminate the average Western **rancher/farmer from** access to EQIP funding. This basically discriminates against them, because most Western states have a minority of private lands. Also each entity/operation is a single resource and should be treated as such regardless of land status.

Other members of the general public will be adversely **affected** by this regulation as stated, because of damaging wildlife habitat and **diminishing** recreational opportunities. Government and private studies will show that by eliminating public-land agricultural operations, wildlife abundance and diversity catastrophically declines.

2) Section 1466.24 in its entirety requires a clarification of the \$450,000 limitation for the term of the 2002 Farm Bill and the \$300,000 limit for the 2009 Farm Bill. Eliminate the rolling 6 year time span.

I appreciate your time in this matter.

Best Regards,



CC: AZ NRCS State Conservationists
AZ NRCS State Technical Committee
Congressman Trent Franks
Congressman Jeff Flake
Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack
Director Financial Assistance, Greg Johnson
Acting-Chief NRCS, Dr. David White